

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC, NATO, DA

SUBJ: DANISH APPREHENSION OVER STATE OF US-EC RELATIONS

SUMMARY: MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY HAS INFORMED US OF HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER RECENT COURSE OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED DANISH WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN CURRENT SITUATION BUT STRESSED HIS GENUINE PUZZLEMENT ABOUT WHAT HAD GONE WRONG. UNDER SECRETARY, IN COMMON WITH OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS AND SOME LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, EVIDENTLY REGARDS CURRENT CRISIS ATMOSPHERE AS AT LEAST PARTIALLY ARTIFICIAL, AND CLEARLY IMPLIED SUSPICION THAT USG WAS GENERATING STRAINS FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES.

END SUMMARY:

1. AT LUNCH WITH DCM AND EMBOFF MARCH 13, MFA UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN STRESSED NEED FOR EC EIGHT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH FRANCE IN FRAMEWORK OF THE NINE AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT DANISH HOPE FOR STRONGER GERMAN LEADERSHIP HAD NOT BEEN FULFILLED.

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HE APPEARED TO PLACE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE ON EVENTUAL ROLE OF

UK, SPECULATING THAT LABOUR GOVT MAY BE LESS INCLINED TO LEAN TOWARD FRANCE AND MAY THUS RETURN UK TO ITS NORMAL POSTURE, BASED ON CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO US. HE INDICATED THAT INITIAL ACTIONS OF WILSON GOVT, AND COMPOSITION OF NEW CABINET, ENCOURAGED BELIEF THAT UK WOULD FOLLOW PRUDENT COURSE WITH REGARD TO EC. IN HIS OPINION, DECLARED BRITISH INTENTION OF RENEGOTIATING TERMS OF EC ENTRY IS ESSENTIALLY POST-ELECTION GESTURE WHICH MAY NEVER ACTUALLY BECOME ISSUE BETWEEN UK AND THE OTHER EIGHT.

2. AS FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG DID LAST WEEK IN TALK WITH AMBASSADOR (COPENHAGEN 639), JORGENSEN REITERATED IMPRESSION OF EC COUNTRIES THAT SCHEEL HAD "CONSULTED" WITH SECRETARY PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT PROPOSED TALKS WITH ARABS. AT LATER POINT IN CONVERSATION HE WONDERED ALOUD ABOUT RECENT FUROR IN EUROPEAN PRESS OVER SECRETARY'S REPORTED REMARKS TO CONGRESSIONAL WIVES. OF COURSE, HE SAID, SECRETARY MAY HAVE THOUGHT HIS REMARKS WOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. ON OTHER HAND, HE MAY HAVE INTENDED TO GET HIS COMMENTS INTO PRESS BUT PREFERRED TO MAKE HIS ANGER KNOWN IN THIS INDIRECT FASHION.

3. JORGENSEN NOTED THAT SECRETARY HAS OFTEN USED NEGOTIATING TACTIC OF PUSHING SITUATION TO CRISIS POINT IN ORDER TO PRECIPITATE SOLUTION, AND SPECULATED THAT US HANDLING OF ITS RELATIONS WITH EC MAY BE ANOTHER INSTANCE OF THIS. SPEAKING VERY SERIOUSLY, HE SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS KIND OF TACTIC IS APPROPRIATE OR EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH USG'S EUROPEAN ALLIES. HE UNDERLINED HIS BELIEF THAT ONLY US IS CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. EIGHT DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO INTERFERE WITH POSITIVE ROLE US IS PLAYING IN MID-EAST AND HOPE THAT THEIR LONG-TERM EFFORTS AT IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ARABS WILL NOT COMPLICATE US PROBLEM UNDULY. HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ARAB INTEREST IN EC INITIATIVE WAS NOT DISINTERESTED AND THAT ARABS OBVIOUSLY HOPED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR BARGAINING POSITION WITH US AND ISRAELIS BY PLAYING EUROPEAN CARD.

4. EMBASSY REPS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CONVINCING US PUBLIC AND CONGRESS THAT EUROPEANS WERE MAKING SERIOUS EFFORTS TO COOPERATE WITH RATHER THAN OPERATE AT CROSS PURPOSES WITH US. THEY POINTED TO MOUNTING FRUSTRATIONS ENCOUNTERED IN TRYING TO AGREE ON SUITABLE WORDING FOR JOINT US-EC DECLARATION, FOR EXAMPLE, AND REFERRED TO FRENCH PENCHANT FOR CARRYING LOGIC TO ILLOGICAL

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EXTREMES. US PUBLIC IRRITATION, THEREFORE, WAS NOT STAGED AND HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE CURRENT PROBLEMS.

5. UNDER SECRETARY COMMENTED IN PASSING THAT DANISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, BARTELS, HAD WRITTEN HIM RECENTLY FOR GUIDANCE IN DEALING WITH PRESENT CRISIS ATMOSPHERE. BARTELS, HE SAID, SERVED FOR MANY YEARS IN PARIS AND IS AN ADMIRER OF FRENCH DIPLOMATIC SKILL. ON THE OTHER HAND, BARTELS HAS BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INTELLECTUAL BRILLIANCE, AND IS ACCORDINGLY PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS AT ONCE. JORGENSEN SAID THAT HE HAD JUST SENT BARTELS A LONG GUIDANCE MESSAGE BUT HE REFRAINED FROM INDICATING WHAT THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS ADVICE WAS. (WE UNDERSTAND, INCIDENTALLY, FROM OTHER SOURCES IN MINISTRY THAT BARTELS' TENDENCY TO FOLLOW HIS OWN INCLINATIONS RATHER THAN INSTRUCTIONS FROM COPENHAGEN IS WELL KNOWN. PUTTING SEVERAL COMMENTS TOGETHER, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF AMBASSADOR BARTELS CHOSE TO RETIRE WITHIN NEXT YEAR OR SO, ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT YET 60 AND CONTINUE IN DANISH FOREIGN SERVICE UNTIL HE REACHES 70.)

6. COMMENT: SECRETARY'S REPUTATION FOR VIRTUOSITY MAY BE COMPLICATING RESOLUTION OF PRESENT CONFRONTATION WITH EC. JORGENSEN SIGNALLED HIS SUSPICION THAT SECRETARY'S INDIGNATION WITH NON-COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF EUROPEANS MAY BE TACTICAL NEGOTIATING PLOY DESIGNED TO LOOSEN THEM UP FOR CRUCIAL FINAL STATES OF IMPENDING NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS THOSE ON BURDEN-SHARING, ARTICLE 24:6, ENERGY COOPERATION, AND JOINT EC-US DECLARATION. HIS SUSPICIONS, WE BELIEVE, ARE WIDELY SHARED WITHIN MFA AND HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO SURFACE IN LOCAL PRESS. JORGENSEN ALSO MADE IT CLEAR HE BELIEVES USG IS SERIOUSLY MISJUDGING PRESENT SITUATION IN EUROPE AND THAT, ACCORDINGLY, PRESENT CRISIS SITUATION COULD DRAG ON FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME. HE OBSERVED POINTEDLY THAT RECENT US ACTIONS HAVE NOT MADE IT EASIER FOR AMERICAN FRIENDS IN EUROPE, OF WHICH HE IS ONE, TO CONTINUE TO DEFEND US POLICY.
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